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INDIA -- Fighting pretty much at standstill -- Indian position improving.

Big news is demotion of Krishna Menon from Defense Minister to Minister of Defense Production. Nehru finally had to give in in face of strong and unanimous pressure from all sides.

This about dashes Menon's chances for any effective political power -- but we haven't heard the last of him. Will still exert considerable personal influence on Nehru.

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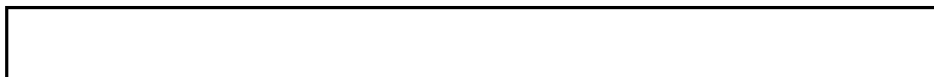
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BRAZIL -- ~~1~~ Leonel Brizola -- arch advocate of nationalization --  
may get a cabinet job either as minister of mines  
and energy or as head of the national oil monopoly  
PETROBAS.

He is riding high after getting more votes than any  
congressman in history and says he won't be satisfied being  
in Congress only.



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LAOS -- There has been a sharp drop in the Soviet airlift~~s~~ since 25 October -- Only 5 flights in past six days and these all to Plaine des Jarres. This compares with previous average of 7 or 8 flights daily.

We are not too sure of the reason -- it is definitely not weather. Russians may be getting ready to carry through with ~~its~~ promise to <sup>give</sup> ~~get~~ ten a/c and crews to Souvanna. They may ~~still~~ <sup>(THIS WAY)</sup> hope to block any arrangement between Souvanna and

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Air America

*Background Material  
of 1 November*

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